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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 1 - Afghanistan

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02243

V.1 AFGHANISTAN

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Afghanistan was host to a refugee population of 18,800 Tajiks, of whom 6,800 were located in Sakhi Camp outside Mazar-i-Sharif in Balkh province. In addition, an estimated 12,000 were living in scattered settlements in the northern provinces of Kunduz and Takhar. The figure reflects a decrease of 10,938 persons who repatriated with the assistance of UNHCR and some 8,000 who returned to Tajikistan spontaneously during the year. Seven mandate refugees, of Iranian and Iraqi origin, are assisted by UNHCR in Mazar-i-Sharif pending their repatriation or the identification of a resettlement country. UNHCR provided assistance to 226,000 internally displaced persons, of which 193,128 in Jalalabad, 27,280 in northern Afghanistan and 1,190 in Herat. An additional 106,500 displaced persons were being assisted in camps overseen by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA) with the assistance of other United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. The outbreak of civil war in Tajikistan in late 1992 led to an influx of some 70,000 Tajik refugees into northern Afghanistan. A combination of organized and spontaneous repatriation during 1993 and 1994 resulted in a significant reduction in numbers. At the conclusion of the repatriation season in September 1994, UNHCR undertook a household census of the camp population which showed a reduction in the figures and accounted for repatriation to Tajikistan and internal relocation to other parts of Afghanistan. Negotiations between the Government in Dushanbe and the Tajik opposition have been sporadic and inconclusive. Amnesties, cease-fire agreements, assurances by Tajik government officials and the presence of UNHCR in Tajikistan have been positive factors influencing those who have decided to return.

3. As security conditions allowed, UNHCR international field staff undertook missions to the provinces of Kunduz and Takhar to monitor the condition of Tajik refugees throughout these areas. Arrangements were made for the transportation and distribution of 20,000 blankets and 3,000 plastic sheets to the refugees living in two settlements. However, periodic bombardments in the area by Afghan government and opposition forces, and the suspension of river travel due to seizure of the barge linking Afghanistan with Tajikistan limited UNHCR's access to the area.

4. An escalation of factional fighting in Kabul in January 1994 triggered the flight of tens of thousands of families throughout the year. Most of the displaced sought shelter in the eastern city of Jalalabad, where various United Nations agencies participated in a coordinated joint response. UNHCR assumed responsibility for the provision of relief items, registration and camp management. In October, camp management was turned over to UNOCHA. The improved security situation in Kabul since late March 1995 has initiated a cautious but steady return of displaced persons at the rate of 150 families per day throughout April and May. Land routes have been opened that allow shipments of some food and relief supplies

to reach the city. UNHCR maintains a permanent international staff presence in Kabul and plans to reopen the office during the year. The United Nations agencies that assist internally displaced persons in camps have begun a review of their assistance policies in light of the improved situation in Kabul.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

5. For Tajik refugees in Afghanistan, the Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission, through its Sub-Office in Mazar-i-Sharif and in coordination with the Office of the Chief of Mission in Tajikistan, will continue to pursue opportunities for voluntary repatriation. In addition to organized transport, an assistance package that consists of a cash grant and a four-month food basket in cooperation with WFP is provided to returnees at the time of departure. Under the assumption of continued stability and maintenance of the security situation in Tajikistan, at the end of 1995, it is estimated that some 2,000 to 3,000 refugees will remain in Sakhi camp plus another 10,000 in Takhar and Kunduz provinces. However, initial movements during the spring months were well below expectations. It is foreseen that voluntary repatriation, both organized and spontaneous, of the balance of Tajik refugees in northern Afghanistan will be completed by the end of 1996.

6. For the residual caseload of Tajik refugees in Afghanistan, the Office of the UNHCR Chief of Mission will initiate a programme to facilitate local settlement in cooperation with Afghan authorities for those individuals and families who are unwilling or unable to return to Tajikistan. The programme for care and maintenance will conclude by the end of 1995 and will be replaced with projects to prepare Tajiks in Afghanistan for a self-sufficient and productive life in permanent settlements. Assistance with local settlement should be viewed in context with the concurrent programme to facilitate repatriation.

7. Assistance to internally displaced persons will be conducted within the framework of supporting repatriation to Afghanistan. Based on initiatives undertaken during 1995, it is anticipated that the security situation in Afghanistan will stabilize to the degree that future displacements are avoided and prospects for return to home communities are enhanced. Through an approach of assisting communities in Afghanistan, projects will be undertaken that benefit returning refugees as well as internally displaced persons, (the chapter on Afghanistan repatriation (A/AC.96/846, Part V/13) refers). Existing settlements for displaced persons will be turned over to resident communities with the cooperation of local Afghan authorities or, where necessary, continue under the overall coordination and management of UNOCHA.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

8. Assistance to Tajik refugees in 1996 will shift from care and maintenance to local settlement due to the expected repatriation of much of the caseload in 1995. It is expected however that a substantial number of refugees, some 2,000 to 3,000 at Sakhi and up to 10,000 in Kunduz and Takhar provinces, will express a clear desire, either for political or other reasons, to remain in Afghanistan.

Funds have been budgeted to provide for shelter material, shallow well construction and for the improvement of existing agricultural supply systems. Although most Tajik refugees are from agricultural backgrounds, some may be inclined to seek employment in the urban economy. Funds are therefore budgeted for training and income-generation projects to be provided through local NGOs. It is also foreseen that the building of schools and the purchase of classroom equipment and supplies will be supported.

9. UNHCR will continue to support organized and voluntary repatriation programmes for Tajik refugees in northern Afghanistan. Working out of the UNHCR Sub-Office Mazar-i-Sharif, organized transport by hired truck and by rail via Uzbekistan will be provided when possible and when the numbers of Tajiks repatriating permit. Simultaneously, transportation grants will be provided on a case-by-case basis to those wishing to repatriate by independent means via Sher Khan Bandar. It is expected that up to 6,000 persons will opt for these two means of assisted transport in 1996. Repatriation grants will also be provided. Based on the assumptions of continuing stability and the maintenance of security in Tajikistan, it is believed that the repatriation, both organized and spontaneous, of the balance of Tajik refugees in Afghanistan will be completed by the end of 1996. As and when necessary, funds will be requested from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation activities in 1996.

10. Assistance, in the form of medical expenses and a subsistence and living allowance pending the identification of durable solutions will be provided to foreign nationals in Afghanistan who have been recognized as Mandate refugees. Most of the individual cases are located in Mazar-i-Sharif. Upon approval for resettlement in a third country, departure expenses will be provided. A budget is proposed to assist up to 20 beneficiaries during 1996.

11. The UNHCR programme for repatriation and for assistance to the communities to which Afghan refugees are returning is described under the regional special programme for repatriation to Afghanistan.

(c) Implementing partners

12. Many of the activities will continue to be implemented and monitored directly by UNHCR field offices. For Tajik refugees and displaced persons in northern Afghanistan, NGOs will continue to provide programmes that address their specific needs in the fields of health, water, sanitation and social services, with particular attention being paid to women, children and vulnerable groups. There will be an increased emphasis on programmes that promote local integration and economic self-sufficiency for the local settlement of Tajik refugees who decide to remain in Afghanistan.

13. The allocation and coordination of all food assistance is handled by WFP. A mixed food package equivalent to four months of rations will be provided to returnees from Sakhi camp and from the provinces of Kunduz and Takhar at the time of departure. The package will include wheat, rice, chick-peas, sugar and oil. The availability of assistance in Sakhi camp will be reduced, and ultimately eliminated, as the measures for local settlement progress. It is anticipated that

a final food package equal in value to the repatriation grant will be provided to refugees opting for local settlement.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

14. The 1994 expenditures were higher than the revised estimates, mainly under common staff costs, because of higher than expected staff turnover and the evacuation of international staff from Mazar-i-Sharif to Hairaton due to deteriorating security. Furthermore, expenditure under travel was higher than expected and included a regional deployment of the international staff in Kandahar because of the improved security situation there and for an emergency response in Jalalabad for newly arrived displaced persons, mainly from Kabul.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

15. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than the initial estimates mainly because of the creation of three posts under the Afghan repatriation programme; one international Senior Protection Officer post in the Office of the Chief of Mission in Islamabad, one Senior Administrative Assistant post in Mazar-i-Sharif and one Driver post in Jalalabad. On the other hand one post of Senior Protection Clerk and one post of Driver were discontinued in the Office of the Chief of Mission. Additional provision has been made under travel in the programme of assistance to Tajik refugees in the north of Afghanistan. Requirements under general operating expenses are also higher because of the relocation of the UNHCR Branch Office from joint premises in Islamabad to a separate building elsewhere in the city. This relocation resulted in the need for security arrangements. Total requirements are also higher because of the need for acquiring of additional vehicles and replacing computers as well as office furniture and equipment for the new premises.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

16. The total of the initial 1996 requirements are slightly lower than the revised 1995 requirements. Salaries and common staff costs are at much the same level because of the extension of all previously approved time limited posts until 31 December 1996. Costs under travel are expected to be lower since all the UNHCR Field Offices in Afghanistan are fully staffed and will therefore require fewer redeployments of staff between the various offices in the country. Under general operating expenses, additional provision has been made for the re-establishment of the Office of the Chief of Mission in Kabul. Provision has also been made for the replacement of vehicles, the purchase of computer and telecommunications equipment as well as for miscellaneous furniture. Under joint United Nations activities, the costs for the charter and operation of a cost-shared aircraft for staff travel and for transportation of material will be covered under the Afghan Repatriation programme.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN AFGHANISTAN

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
3,965.0	–	–	EMERGENCY FUND	–
1,001.4	1,019.8	1,022.7	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	30.0
181.0 a/	–	353.0 b/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
–	300.0	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	492.5
88.4	–	70.0 b/	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
5,235.8	1,319.8	1,445.7	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	522.5
5,235.8	**1,319.8**	**1,445.7**	**TOTAL (1)**	**522.5**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
2,335.0	5,801.5	12,604.7	AFGHANISTAN REPATRIATION PROGRAMME	5,109.7 c/
3,101.2	3,002.6	3,362.3	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	3,052.2
186.2	226.2	373.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	357.2
61.1	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
5,683.5	**9,030.3**	**16,340.9**	**TOTAL (2)**	**8,519.1**
10,919.3	**10,350.1**	**17,786.6**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**9,041.6**

a/ obligation incurred under the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

b/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

c/ Subject to revision for the Consolidated Inter–Agency Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan (October 1995 – September 1996)

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PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 2 - Algeria

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02374

V.2 ALGERIA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Algeria hosted some 219,000 refugees, comprising 165,000 Western Saharans in Tindouf, south-west Algeria, 28,000 Malians and 22,000 from Niger in southern Algeria, as well as about 4,000 Palestinians and 69 refugees of other nationalities in urban areas, mainly in Algiers. Of this total, some 120,000 are being assisted, including 80,000 Western Saharans considered to be vulnerable cases. Palestinian refugees are generally integrated into Algerian economic and social life. Others, mainly students whose first country of asylum was not Algeria, are assisted by UNHCR, mainly with scholarships to supplement those granted by the Algerian Government.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) Western Saharan refugees

2. At the end of October 1994, the Western Saharan refugee camps were struck by unprecedented rains and flooding. Emergency relief was sent in two UNHCR aircraft and in a third provided by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA). UNHCR also obtained some goods locally and conducted an information campaign to sensitize donor country embassies in Algiers. Several countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) made significant donations and most of the required relief items had been provided by the end of April 1995. With the donations received and pledged, the emergency had largely been overcome.

3. In March 1995, the Government of Algeria approved the establishment of a UNHCR outpost in Tindouf, staffed by local personnel, to facilitate assistance activities for the Western Saharan refugees.

(b) Displaced persons from Mali and Niger

4. On 23 August 1994, a quadripartite agreement for the repatriation of displaced persons from Mali was signed in Bamako by the Governments of Algeria and Mali, the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) and UNHCR. The intention of this agreement is to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and the effective reintegration of displaced persons from Mali. At the time of signature however, the situation in northern Mali did not permit any organized repatriation to be undertaken.

5. During 1994, the Algerian Government completed the construction of four camps to house refugees from Mali and Niger. Of the four sites, only In-Ghessem and Tinzaouatin are currently operational and, in April 1995, the Algerian Government started to transfer families who had volunteered to go to these two camps. The budget for this activity will be reviewed once all the displaced persons have been regrouped. The allocation foreseen for 1995 has been reduced because of delays in distributing the material assistance to the widely dispersed refugee population.

(c) **Urban refugees**

6. Since January 1995, the UNHCR Branch Office has been obliged to reduce the number of refugees and urban asylum-seekers being interviewed because of insecurity.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) **Objectives**

7. For the Western Saharan refugees and for those from Mali and Niger, care and maintenance will continue until it becomes possible for them to repatriate. Recent developments in Mali and in Niger have raised hopes that conditions in both of these countries may soon allow some repatriation in the last quarter of 1995. Concerning Western Sahara, the Secretary-General indicated, in his report to the Security Council on 19 May, that he would assess the progress made in the implementation of the Settlement Plan by the end of September 1995. Based on this assessment, he would then make recommendations to the Security Council for the fulfilment of the United Nations mandate in Western Sahara.

8. It is planned to continue supporting refugee students until they return to their countries of origin or asylum upon completion of their studies.

9. Resettlement opportunities will be sought for some urban cases which benefit from temporary or permanent asylum in Algeria. It is significant that resettlement traditionally has not been a durable solution in Algeria. However, the resettlement option is becoming necessary due to the security situation.

(b) **Proposed budgets for 1996**

(i) **General Programmes**

a. **Care and maintenance**

10. Depending upon the progress in 1995 of the implementation of the United Nations Settlement Plan for the referendum in Western Sahara, 1996 programme proposals for Western Saharan refugees are proposed at the same level as in 1995 for the time being. Care and maintenance assistance will continue as in previous years in respect of basic and supplementary food provided by WFP as well as for the replacement of domestic items, the maintenance of water equipment and the improvement of sanitation. As in the past, particular attention will be paid to women and children, who constitute the vast majority of the assisted population. The presence of local UNHCR staff in Tindouf should permit closer monitoring and better planning.

11. In 1996, assistance will be delivered to displaced persons from Mali and Niger in the new sites that have been constructed by the Algerian Government. Basic and supplementary food will continue to be provided by WFP, and UNHCR will obtain complementary food and domestic items. Operational support will be provided to the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) and La Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FOREM) in terms of staff, equipment, vehicles and administrative costs to facilitate implementation of their activities.

12. The sectoral breakdown of the initial and revised 1995 budgets and the proposed 1996 care and maintenance allocations for refugees from Western Sahara, Mali and Niger are as follows (in dollars):

i. **Western Saharan refugees**

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	312,080	495,400	495,400
Transport	333,110	341,181	341,181
Domestic needs	1,212,300	1,397,813	1,397,813
Water	21,131	171,943	171,943
Sanitation	13,729	6,632	6,632
Health	705,000	545,192	545,192
Community services	142,000	66,394	66,394
Education	377,650	224,772	224,772
Crop production	100,000	50,000	50,000
Livestock	220,000	187,720	187,720
Agency op. support	63,000	12,953	12,953
Total	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000

ii. **Refugees from Mali and Niger**

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	192,240	192,240	192,240
Transport	491,700	189,166	189,166
Domestic needs	900,000	300,000	300,000
Water	2,650	72,446	72,446
Health	200,000	110,363	110,363
Crop production	0	1,865	1,865
Income-generation	0	6,477	6,477
Agency op. support	113,410	127,443	127,443
Total	1,900,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

13. In addition, $ 41,000 and $ 40,900 are budgeted for assistance to urban refugees in 1995 and 1996 respectively.

(c) **Implementing partners**

(i) **Western Saharan refugees**

14. In 1996, CRA will continue to be the major implementing partner of UNHCR for the delivery of assistance to Western Saharan refugees. CRA is mainly entrusted with the transportation of material from the ports of Algiers and Oran to the Tindouf

region. In June 1994, a new CRA President was elected and a new team was designated to work with UNHCR. As a result, significant improvements in project implementation have been observed.

15. The NGO Enfants Réfugiés du Monde will contribute to the training of refugee women in infant health care and to the development of day care centres. It is also expected that One World Action will cover the agricultural sector in Tindouf.

(ii) Refugees from Mali and Niger

16. The CRA has established a team in Tamanrasset to deal specifically with the programme for displaced persons from Mali and Niger. In addition, FOREM also implement a number of activities.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part 1 (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditures (all sources of funds)

18. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates due to the security situation which resulted in a reduction in programme activities. The non-filling of the post of Legal Officer, as well as lower general operating expenses, offset the increased costs incurred as a result of international staff being obliged to live and work in a hotel.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

19. Revised 1995 requirements are lower than initial estimates. Due to the prevailing insecurity in Algeria, general operating expenses and the procurement of equipment has been reduced.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

20. Initial 1996 requirements are approximately the same as revised 1995 requirements. The 1996 requirements may eventually need to be reviewed in view of the establishment of an outpost in Tindouf, recently agreed by the Government, and taking into account developments regarding the voluntary repatriation of Western Saharan refugees.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN ALGERIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
4,728.7	5,466.7	4,541.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	4,540.9
0.8 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
2.4 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
516.3	568.5	497.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	503.7
5,248.2	6,035.2	5,038.1	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	5,044.6
37.3	57.2	43.7	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	45.4
5,285.5	6,092.4	5,081.8	TOTAL (1)	5,090.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
11.5	20.8	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
0.7	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
2,487.1	–	–	Extra–budgetary Food	–
58.1	38.9	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
2,557.4	59.7	0.0	TOTAL (2)	0.0
7,842.9	6,152.1	5,081.8	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	5,090.0

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

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PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 3 - Central Asian Republics

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02454

V.3 CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

1. This section covers UNHCR activities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

1. Beneficiary population

2. By the end of 1994, 90 per cent of the 520,000 internally displaced persons in Tajikistan had returned to their places of origin. Of the 16,000 internally displaced who remained in Gorno-Badakhshan at the end of 1994, some 10,000 are expected to have returned by September of 1995, while local integration is planned for the remainder. An additional 4,600 Tajik refugees in Kyrgyzstan and 600 Afghan refugees in Tajikistan were receiving assistance. UNHCR supported the voluntary repatriation and subsequent reintegration of some 11,000 Tajik refugees who repatriated voluntarily from Afghanistan in 1994. Approximately 8,000 more refugees who returned spontaneously to Tajikistan during 1994 were also eligible for assistance. Protection and assistance was provided by UNHCR, on a case-by-case basis, to refugees from non-Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries who had sought asylum in Central Asia.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. Funding for UNHCR activities in Central Asia in 1994 and 1995 was sourced from United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals for Tajikistan. The 1994 appeal requested $ 14,900,000 for UNHCR's activities in Central Asia, towards which $ 9,991,738 were contributed. The 1995 United Nations appeal requested $ 12,194,000, of which $ 5,030,126 had been received as of 1 June 1995.

4. By the end of 1994 an estimated 90 per cent of those persons internally displaced from the south of Tajikistan had returned to their place of habitual residence. A major component of UNHCR's activities in Tajikistan in 1994 and the first half of 1995 involved monitoring the observance of the legal rights of former refugees and internally displaced, and intervention to ensure that reported crimes were properly investigated by the authorities. A UNHCR staff presence, particularly in the volatile south of Tajikistan, has been regarded by many international agencies as an important element in promoting stability in the areas of return.

5. The initial objective of completing the reconstruction of 17,000 houses in Tajikistan by the end of 1994 had to be delayed because contributions to the Special Programme were late in arriving. Additional delays were caused by logistical problems in the procurement and distribution of materials and by new tariff regulations that were introduced in the region. Following the procurement of required materials in the first half of 1995, the shelter project is expected to be finished this year.

6. In addition to the shelter project, UNHCR also initiated in 1994 over 20 quick impact projects (QIPs) in the primary areas of return. The QIPs were designed to ensure the maximum participation of and economic benefit to the large number of widows and other vulnerable groups located in the south of Tajikistan. The projects

also assisted the communities in general to meet their basic needs. The types of projects supported which have been developed to be sustainable and economically viable include poultry raising, soap production, cotton seed oil processing, shoe-making and clothes manufacturing. It is anticipated that UNDP will take over responsibility for the implementation of these projects during the second half of 1995, prior to their hand-over to the private sector.

7. During 1994 UNHCR assisted in the repatriation of 10,938 Tajiks from northern Afghanistan. The lower than expected level of Tajik repatriation from Afghanistan during 1994 can be attributed to the lack of access by UNHCR to the majority of the refugee population, and the presence amongst the refugees of special interest groups who advised against, and in some instances prevented, repatriation. The continuing insecurity and economic hardship experienced in Afghanistan and Tajikistan will play a large part in determining the size and time frame for any future repatriation. It is estimated that some 18,000 Tajik refugees remain in northern Afghanistan.

8. Since the end of 1994 UNHCR has been negotiating with UNDP, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other humanitarian agencies on the hand-over of certain UNHCR responsibilities, which are to be transferred as a consequence of UNHCR's phase-down from Tajikistan. It is anticipated that agreements will be made during the second half of 1995 to ensure a smooth transition of the material assistance and social reintegration functions currently undertaken by UNHCR.

9. UNHCR's office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, coordinated assistance programmes to Tajik and Afghan refugees in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. With the exception of Tajikistan, no Central Asian Republic is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. In Tajikistan, UNHCR is working with national authorities to facilitate full implementation of the new national refugee law. In the absence of any international or regional legal instruments dealing with refugees in the other Central Asian States, UNHCR has been granting mandate refugee status and promoting the granting of temporary asylum to non-CIS asylum-seekers, pending the identification of a durable solution. In the absence of voluntary repatriation, UNHCR supports local integration as the most desirable durable solution, particularly for persons from the CIS.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

10. The primary objectives of UNHCR in Central Asia in 1996 are:

(a) to facilitate the return and reintegration of Tajik refugees and internally displaced persons;

(b) to support local integration programmes in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan;

(c) to continue to support the needs of women and other vulnerable groups within the refugee community in Central Asia;

(d) to increase the institutional and operational capacity of the Governments of the region so that they will be in a position to effectively respond to the needs of refugees and the internally displaced;

(e) to ensure the adequate protection of refugees who are not in a position to integrate into their country of asylum;

(f) to advance accession to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol; and

(g) to act as a catalyst for regional cooperation on refugee and related issues.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) Care and maintenance

'11. UNHCR activities in Central Asia in 1996 will be placed for the first time under General Programmes. The 1996 estimates for the Uzbekistan Programme include requirements in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. The bulk of expenditure will assist in local integration, for example through income-generation projects, and the provision of technical assistance to support institution- and capacity-building.

12. Following the phase-down in **Tajikistan** UNHCR intends to continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of the remaining Tajik refugees and internally displaced persons. Local settlement support will be considered for those Tajik refugees who choose to remain in Afghanistan, to assist in their integration. This assistance will be provided under the Afghan Programme.

13. UNHCR will continue to ensure the adequate protection of refugees who are not in a position to integrate into their country of asylum. Protection of non-CIS asylum-seekers, where they have been unable to benefit from the legal protection of the State in the absence of a refugee law, remains a continuing problem throughout most of Central Asia. In **Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan**, a growing number of Afghans of concern to UNHCR are unable to return to Afghanistan under the present circumstances due to instability or as a consequence of past affiliations. Several thousand Afghans may therefore need UNHCR's protection and assistance in 1996. These refugees will need to be assisted on an individual basis, until such time as a durable solution is found.

14. In **Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan**, Tajik refugees have already started to integrate into their countries of asylum. To support the process of local integration, UNHCR plans to provide shelter materials, assist in the construction of basic infrastructure and initiate income-generation activities in the areas of refugee, returnee or resettlement concentrations. Projects designed to assist vulnerable groups, such as women and children, will continue to be emphasized.

15. UNHCR will develop further its preventive strategy in Central Asia. This strategy will aim to assist in institution- and capacity-building in the region by increasing the number of workshops, seminars and training provided to Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These activities are designed to introduce regional Governments, especially those agencies dealing with migratory movements and asylum in the region, to refugee law and related migratory issues. Technical assistance and training will be supported by the provision of capacity-building equipment (e.g. computers/software, photocopiers) to the relevant authorities.

16. The development of an integrated strategy in conjunction with the CIS Conference process will also act as a catalyst to promote regional cooperation in dealing with refugee issues. It is hoped that other Central Asian Republics will join Tajikistan in acceding to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

17. Recent hostilities in Afghanistan and the Transcaucasus have resulted in a substantial increase in population movements to the Central Asian Republics. Planned assessment missions by UNHCR and further consultations with regional Governments on this growing problem may necessitate a review of the appropriation for this programme in 1996.

18. The anticipated completion of voluntary repatriation and reintegration into local communities will lead to the closure of some Field Offices in Tajikistan and staff reduction by September 1995. The remaining Field Offices will be closed and field staff withdrawn by the end of 1995. Due to delays experienced in the hand-over of legal assistance activities to the OSCE, and in the hand-over of material assistance to UNDP and other developmental agencies, it has been necessary to extend field staff in Tajikistan longer than initially planned. Following the phase-down UNHCR will maintain a presence in Dushanbe to assist the local and central authorities in ensuring the security and protection of Afghan refugees and other asylum-seekers.

(c) Implementing partners

19. With the finalization of UNHCR's shelter programme and the anticipated hand-over of income-generation project responsibilities to UNDP and other development agencies in 1995, the level of activity involving implementing partners in Tajikistan is likely to decline. During 1995 UNHCR developed agreements in Tajikistan with the Aga Khan Foundation, Relief International, the International Rescue Committee, Médecins sans Frontières-Belgium, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Save the Children Fund (SCF)-UK, SCF-USA and the Tajik Government.

20. In the other Central Asian States UNHCR has already made agreements with the Kazakh and Kyrgyz Red Crescent Societies for the provision of assistance to Afghan refugees. With an increase in the level of operational activity in these States, UNHCR aims to boost further the involvement of national and international agencies as implementing partners.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

21. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

22. In **Tajikistan**, 1994 expenditure was lower than the revised estimates due to savings under staff costs. The unstable security situation in Tajikistan also necessitated the procurement of additional staff safety and security equipment.

23. In **Uzbekistan**, expenditure in 1994 was lower than revised estimates, mainly because of savings under staff costs. Expenditure under joint United Nations Activities was also lower because the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA) agreed to reducing UNHCR's contribution towards premises as well as logistical and administrative support provided in Termez.

24. In **Kyrgyzstan**, limited expenditure was incurred as the three approved posts remained vacant. Operational activities were undertaken by UNHCR staff based in Uzbekistan on mission to Kyrgyzstan.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

25. In **Tajikistan**, the revised 1995 requirements are slightly lower than initial estimates, mainly because of decreases in common staff costs. However, most other costs have increased due to the delayed phase-down of UNHCR activities in the country. Indeed, two international posts and five local posts were extended until mid-1995. Cost for travel, supplies and materials have increased accordingly. The 1995 Consolidated Appeal anticipated a phase-down of UNHCR's field operations in Tajikistan by mid-1995 thereby reducing the administrative costs of the programme for the second half of the year. Due to the need to ensure a successful hand-over to other international agencies, the number of international and local field staff in the primary areas of return has had to be extended into the second half of 1995. At the end of 1995, all Field Offices in Tajikistan will be closed, with a core team remaining in Dushanbe. In order to facilitate the hand-over it is anticipated that some vehicles and communications and office equipment will be provided to other agencies taking over from UNHCR. Other surplus equipment will be redeployed to other UNHCR offices in Central Asia.

26. In **Uzbekistan**, the revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates. Decreases in common staff costs were offset by an increase in salaries, with the creation of one Regional Legal Officer, one Regional Programme Officer and four local posts as of 1 January 1995. Budgetary provisions for travel and acquisition of furniture and equipment were increased accordingly, the latter to procure the required additional vehicles and to upgrade the computer system.

27. To support UNHCR's presence in the Central Asian Republics and to assist the respective Governments with legal reform and institution-building, Liaison Offices were created in **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan**. The Kazakhstan and

Kyrgyzstan Liaison Offices are both staffed by one Senior Liaison Officer and three local staff. The Liaison Office in Bishkek is supported by a Field Office in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. As the Liaison Office in Turkmenistan will also assist in the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from the Islamic Republic of Iran through Turkmenistan, one Senior Liaison Officer, one Field Officer and six local staff will be recruited during the second half of 1995. The repatriation operation through Turkmenistan has necessitated the establishment of a Field Office in Kushka. The revised budgets provide each location with establishment and running costs of a new office and the procurement of vehicles, furniture, computers, photocopiers and telecommunication equipment.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

28. In **Tajikistan**, following the phase-down and the closure of Field Offices, UNHCR will maintain a minimum presence to assist authorities in dealing with protection issues. The initial 1996 requirements are therefore lower than the revised 1995 requirements as only the Chief of Mission, the Protection Officer, the Field Staff Safety Officer and six local staff posts have been extended until the end of 1996. All the other budget chapters have been reduced accordingly. Due to the higher than expected remaining Tajik caseload in northern Afghanistan, it is expected that the posts of two roving Field Officers, based in Dushanbe, will need to be reviewed. These officers would have responsibility for the coordination of the repatriation and social reintegration of returnees throughout Central Asia and northern Afghanistan.

29. In **Uzbekistan**, the initial 1996 requirements for staffing are the same as the revised 1995 requirements, although decreases will be achieved in the acquisition of furniture and equipment which will be completed during 1995.

30. In **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan**, the initial 1996 requirements for staffing are the same as the 1995 requirements with an expected decrease on acquisition of furniture and equipment.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
–	–	–	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	1,104.0
1,500.0 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
8.6 b/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
–	–	–	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,850.9
1,508.6	0.0	0.0	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	2,954.9
–	–	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	170.0
1,508.6	0.0	0.0	TOTAL (1)	3,124.9
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
4,872.2	3,900.0	7,130.0	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Assistance to returnees and displaced persons	–
2,707.0	2,155.5	2,774.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
336.8	421.0	317.5	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
7,916.0	6,476.5	10,221.6	TOTAL (2)	0.0
9,424.6	6,476.5	10,221.6	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	3,124.9

a/ obligation incurred under the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

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PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 4 - Cyprus

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02466

V.4 CYPRUS

1. Beneficiary population

1. At the request of the Secretary-General, UNHCR has continued its role of coordinating the United Nations Humanitarian Programme of Assistance for Cyprus, which has provided assistance to persons uprooted and displaced within the island since the events of 1974. At the further request of the Government of Cyprus, contributions to this programme are channelled through UNHCR. Within this framework and as from 1981, some 265,000 displaced persons have been assisted through UNHCR under an annual grant of $ 10 million from the Government of the United States of America. In addition, at December 1994, Cyprus hosted 66 refugees, mainly from the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. In 1994, the implementation of bi-communal projects for displaced Cypriots was delayed by the political developments in the country.

3. Despite UNHCR's efforts to bring the programme back into its regular cycle, the delays encountered in previous years are still having an adverse effect on the implementation of the 1995 programme.

4. UNHCR and USAID have agreed jointly that a programme evaluation will be carried out by an independent firm. The results will be used to assess the general impact of projects, whether these projects are implemented within the specified time period, and whether they facilitate and stimulate bi-communal economies, social development and interaction.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

(i) Refugees of various nationalities

5. UNHCR will continue providing international protection and assistance to needy and vulnerable refugees. Efforts to further institutionalize arrangements for obtaining work permits for refugees and for persons of concern who have been given temporary permits to stay in Cyprus pending their resettlement will also continue. The employment of female members of refugee families and day-care arrangements for children are being explored in 1995.

6. Following the successful Second Seminar on Refugee Law (Nicosia, 26 to 27 January 1995) UNHCR Cyprus will continue to promote a wider understanding of international instruments, particularly the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

(ii) Internally displaced population

7. UNHCR will continue its coordination role for displaced persons by expanding bi-communal projects and by strengthening the relationship between the

two communities. This will be achieved through bi-communal training and the sharing of expertise between the two communities.

(b) Proposed budget for 1996

(i) General Programmes

8. **Care and maintenance**: Because of the granting of work permits to some recognized refugees by the Government, care and maintenance expenditures decreased in 1995. It is expected that this trend will continue in 1996, with the granting of additional work permits and the identification of new employment opportunities for refugees temporarily residing in Cyprus.

(ii) Special Programmes

9. **Internally displaced persons**: In 1996, the initial allocation represents an amount equivalent to the anticipated grant from the United States Government. Bi-communal activities will be pursued through sharing of expertise and technical training and seminars addressing common needs of both communities. They will cover various sectors such as health, forestry, and pest control, sanitation, the environment, education and social activities. Large-scale projects such as the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, the Scientific Laboratory Centre, the Nicosia Sewerage Scheme, and the rehabilitation of historically significant architecture will be developed or completed. The role and participation of women in all the bi-communal activities will be given special emphasis.

(c) Implementing partners

10. UNHCR directly implements the care and maintenance programme for the refugee population in Cyprus. In addition, the Government of Cyprus provides free medical care and education to refugee children.

11. The Cyprus Red Cross Society is the implementing partner of UNHCR in providing multi-purpose assistance under the Humanitarian Programme of Assistance that benefits internally displaced persons in Cyprus. Close links are maintained with UNDP, the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

12. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditures (all sources of funds)

13. The 1994 expenditure was not significantly different from the revised estimates.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

14. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates due to an increase in the salaries of international and local staff, the purchase of one office vehicle, and the continuing upgrading of computer equipment.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

15. The 1996 Programme Delivery and Administrative Support requirements are not significantly different from 1995 levels. All existing posts have been extended until 31 December 1996. Provision has also been made for the upgrading of office equipment, including a replacement vehicle.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN CYPRUS

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
44.5	58.4	45.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	45.0
1.3 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
45.8	58.4	45.0	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	45.0
45.8	58.4	45.0	T O T A L (1)	45.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
4.0	–	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
1.6	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
12177.6	9,450.0	9,327.0	HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN CYPRUS	9,215.0
372.6	375.5	426.6	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	417.8
89.0	102.2	117.3	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	114.4
12,644.8	9,927.7	9,870.9	T O T A L (2)	9,747.2
12,690.6	9,986.1	9,915.9	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	9,792.2

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

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PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 5 - Egypt

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02237

V.5 EGYPT

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, some 7,220 persons were registered as refugees in Egypt, including 6,060 Somalis, and 950 persons of other nationalities including stateless persons. Of the total, only 16 per cent were men.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. During 1994, the UNHCR Regional Office in Cairo began interviewing Sudanese nationals to assess the validity of their claims. The October 1994 occupation of the UNHCR office by a group from southern Sudan, mainly women and children, drew wide attention to the plight of Sudanese in Egypt and required immediate action to help the neediest, pending determination of their status. The worsening economic situation in Egypt compounded their difficulties, and their need for financial support grew as a consequence.

3. With the appointment of a Regional External Relations Officer in September 1994, activities were undertaken to stimulate the public's awareness of refugee matters. The media conducted interviews in Arabic with refugees and produced video films of refugee situations for presentation in schools and other educational institutions.

4. Voluntary repatriation to North-West Somalia resumed at the beginning of 1995 but this development did not affect the Somali refugee population in Egypt, since most of them originated from southern Somalia and Mogadishu.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

5. Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and to the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention. Living conditions in Egypt, however, remain precarious because of the economic difficulties, primarily affecting the most vulnerable among the refugees and asylum-seekers. Simultaneously, the declining economic situation and the scarcity of job opportunities make it difficult for refugees to find employment. As a result, UNHCR assistance programmes will aim at filling this gap by providing care and maintenance to recognized refugees in need of material support.

6. All refugees in Egypt live in urban areas and will continue requiring subsistence allowances to survive. They will also continue needing access to education and medical facilities. Women will be specifically targeted by UNHCR for vocational training and family planning activities. Despite limited prospects for local integration, the assistance programme will seek to focus on skills training to enable refugees to become self-sufficient during their stay in Egypt and to prepare them for their eventual return to their countries of origin.

7. A local settlement project will provide subsistence allowances and legal assistance to elderly refugees who have been in Egypt since the first World War and who have been unable to become self-sufficient.

8. **Somali refugees**: These refugees, consisting mainly of women and children without the support of adult males, are victims of ethnic conflict in Somalia and are stranded in Egypt. Opportunities for durable solutions including voluntary repatriation and resettlement are infrequent. UNHCR will therefore continue providing them with basic assistance until durable solutions can be identified.

9. **Ethiopian refugees**: This is a diminishing caseload, consisting mainly of young single males who came from the Sudan holding Convention Travel Documents and who had been referred to the UNHCR Regional Office in Cairo for educational assistance. Those who have finished their education and who are unable to repatriate will continue to benefit from limited care and maintenance.

10. **Stateless persons**: The majority of these persons, estimated to be 90 in 1994, are of Armenian, Albanian, White Russian, Polish and Yugoslav origin. Without any sources of income and support, they will continue to benefit from subsistence allowances and regular visits by social workers.

11. **Nationals from the former Yugoslavia**: These persons became refugees sur place while studying in Egypt. In keeping with the UNHCR policy on displaced persons from the former Yugoslavia, they receive individual assistance according to their needs.

12. **Various other nationalities**: Individual cases from countries in Africa or in the Middle East who fear persecution in their countries of origin may benefit from protection and assistance. For reasons of internal security, the Government of Egypt frequently requests UNHCR to explore possibilities of finding resettlement solutions in third countries for eligible persons and to ensure that they have a regular source of income.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) Care and maintenance

13. Basic subsistence will be provided to 5,700 needy refugees from various African countries and 2,700 refugees, mostly women and children, will benefit from medical assistance. With the provision of health services to urban refugees remaining at about the same level as in 1995, more emphasis will be placed on family planning activities aimed at refugee women. This is a direct outcome of the International Population Conference that was held in Egypt in 1994 in which the Family Planning Association, the implementing partner of UNHCR, was actively involved.

14. Primary and secondary education will be made available to some 1,700 refugee children in public and private Egyptian schools, either in Arabic or English. The amount allocated for education has been slightly decreased since the majority of refugee students will be enrolled in public schools. Since refugees

prefer to attend vocational courses instead of being assisted with income-generating activities, the amount for vocational training for about 175 refugees was increased to meet this preference. It is expected that this will eventually lead to a more rapid achievement of self-sufficiency in both the country of asylum and upon their eventual return to either country of origin.

(ii) Local settlement

15. An estimated 90 individual cases living in Cairo and Alexandria will be assisted under a local settlement project that is a continuation of similar activities carried out in previous years.

(iii) Resettlement

16. Up to 200 refugees may be resettled in third countries in 1996. Priority will be given to the disabled, victims of torture and women-at-risk.

(c) Implementing partners

17. CARITAS will be responsible for social welfare activities including individual counselling and home visits to elderly Armenians and to stateless persons who came to Egypt during or soon after the First World War. Most of them are single elderly women. CARITAS will also be responsible for referring medical cases to hospitals, implementing educational activities and paying education grants, placing students in secondary schools and monitoring.

18. The Family Planning Association will provide maternal and child health care services.

19. The Refugee Ministry of St. Andrews and All Saints in Cairo will provide English language courses to refugee children.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Costs

20. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

21. The 1994 expenditures were lower than the revised estimates because the newly created post of Senior Regional External Relations Officer remained vacant until mid-September. This resulted in savings, mainly in salaries, common staff costs and travel.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

22. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than the initial estimates. This is mainly due to the creation of one post of Field Staff Security Officer and the provision, under temporary assistance, for a Public Information Assistant for six months to assist the Senior Regional External Relations Officer in the public

information activities initiated in the region. The revised requirements also cover the purchase of equipment for these activities and for upgrading computer equipment in the Regional Office in Cairo.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements**

23. The 1996 support requirements are slightly lower than the revised 1995 requirements. In respect of staffing, no significant changes are expected. Salaries, common staff costs and non-staff costs are therefore at levels similar t the revised 1995 requirements. Provision has been made for the replacement of som old furniture and equipment.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN EGYPT

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
1,228.4 a/	2,024.9	2,024.9	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	2,012.3
19.6 b/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
81.4 c/	86.8	85.2	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	77.7
27.8 d/	29.9	29.4	RESETTLEMENT	29.4
697.5	945.6	1,183.4	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,120.8
2,054.7	**3,087.2**	**3,322.9**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**3,240.2**
142.2	153.2	187.6	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	182.7
2,196.9	**3,240.4**	**3,510.5**	**T O T A L (1)**	**3,422.9**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
24.8	106.3	–	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	–
28.3	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
45.2	16.0	74.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	74.0
98.3	**122.3**	**74.0**	**T O T A L (2)**	**74.0**
2,295.2	**3,362.7**	**3,584.5**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**3,496.9**

a/ of which US$ 1,217 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
c/ of which US$ 8,507 incurred against Other Programmes
d/ of which US$ 7,788 incurred against Other Programmes

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PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 6 - Islamic Republic of Iran

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02473

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

V.6 ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, 1,623,000 Afghans (1,225,000 permanent card holders and 398,000 temporarily registered refugees) and 118,000 Iraqi refugees (Kurds, Arabs and a new influx of Marsh Arabs) were reported by the Government to be in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Government also provided information concerning the presence in the Islamic Republic of Iran of some 495,000 expellees from Iraq, comprising Iraqis of Iranian origin, Faili Kurds and Shia Arabs. Their status has yet to be determined but some of them may be of concern to UNHCR. In addition, there are 68,000 persons of undetermined nationalities. A precise breakdown on the numbers and nationalities of this group is not available, but the majority appear to be Tajiks, Azeris and Bosnians. The overall total thus comes to 2,304,000.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) General Programmes

(i) Afghan refugees

2. For the past year, the Government has been confronted with a declining domestic economy, inflated prices of fuel and basic commodities, rising unemployment and a devalued rial. Health and education subsidies have been withdrawn from both Iranian citizens and refugees. The Government, which has been supporting refugees largely from its own resources has stated that it can no longer sustain the same level of social welfare, nor can it allow refugee employment beyond March 1995. It has strongly advocated the repatriation of Afghans, the majority of whom are scattered among the urban population throughout the country.

3. Thus, the 1994 Afghan repatriation was planned for 300,000 returnees, and by the end of the year 226,669 returned, of whom 121,402 had repatriated under the UNHCR assistance programme. Most of the Afghans who repatriated were from the city of Mashhad in Khorasan Province, which the Government has proclaimed to be a refugee free zone. According to the Government, refugees with permanent identification cards can stay in the country pending their voluntary repatriation but they should be relocated to areas designated by the Government including newly created camps. The Government expects the international community to increase its assistance to the refugees.

4. During 1994 and 1995, UNHCR continued to supplement and, to the extent possible, compensate for the Government's assistance programme through international procurement of vehicles and medical supplies and construction and improvement of various communal facilities such as schools, health clinics and water systems in areas hosting large numbers of refugees. With the difficulty of targeting assistance to refugees mixed among the urban population, this implementing modality whereby the local population in areas with high concentration of refugees also benefit will remain viable for the foreseeable future.

5. In 1995, however, in order to cope with the withdrawal of health subsidies that were previously extended to refugees, the Ministry of Health agreed to UNHCR providing individual assistance to those refugees in need of special medical care. UNHCR has established medical screening and referral units, employing Iranian doctors as consultants in Tehran, Mashhad, Zahedan, Shiraz, Kerman and Esfahan to screen refugees and to refer cases to the local hospitals. An increase in the 199 care and maintenance budget has been made to cover the cost for the treatment of concerned refugees.

(ii) Iraqi refugees

6. As in the Afghan programme, UNHCR has been complementing the Government's assistance towards some 118,000 Iraqi refugees (Kurds and Arabs) situated in western Iran. Unlike the Afghans, Iraqi refugees have access to jobs and to variou services. However, their current socio-economic status may change, as it did for Afghan refugees, if the national economy continues to deteriorate.

7. During 1994, a small influx of Marsh Arabs from Iraq continued into the border military zone of Himmet, Khuzestan Province. Since the first influx in June 1993, 9,500 refugees have been accommodated in camps. By the end of June 1995, the last group of refugees remaining at the border were settled in camps. Due to insecurity UNHCR has limited access to the border and thus finds it difficult to make its own assessment.

(iii) Project implementation

8. Because of unforeseen delays in the implementation of various activities, the 1994 budget could not be fully disbursed within that project year. Every effor is therefore being made in 1995 to improve the rate of implementation of projects. In this regard, UNHCR recently convened a programme management training session for provincial government staff.

(iv) UNHCR/IFAD South Khorasan Rangeland Rehabilitation Project

9. This project was proposed in 1989 to rehabilitate the rangelands of southern Khorasan Province that had been severely over-cut and over-grazed by large concentrations of Afghan refugees. The project eventually started in 1992 with funding of $ 6 million out of a total budget of $ 26 million. An area of 138,600 hectares is going through the restoration process. The project ended in June 1995.

(b) Special Programmes

10. **Afghan repatriation**: The Afghan repatriation programme is covered under Regional Special Programmes (Part V/13 of this document).

11. **Iraqi repatriation**: A total of 2,290 Iraqi Kurds repatriated with UNHCR assistance between September and December 1994, when the operation was suspended for the winter. Inside Northern Iraq, Iraqi Kurds have been assisted by UNHCR Iraq. The repatriation operation is scheduled to resume in mid-1995 if stability in Northern Iraq can be improved and sustained. The cost of this operation would be covered from the balance available from contributions to the emergency programme for the Persian Gulf crisis.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

12. Taking into account the planned repatriation of 500,000 Afghans in 1995, the 1996 planning figures are 1,100,000 Afghan and 120,000 Iraqi refugees. UNHCR will assist the Government by complementing their refugee programme, but will also introduce targeted assistance wherever possible. Since the Iranian Government is expected to actively promote repatriation, UNHCR will intensify its effort in Afghanistan and engage in various reconstruction activities aimed at the successful reintegration of the returnees.

13. For the remaining Afghan refugee caseload that cannot return in the foreseeable future, it is the responsibility of the Government, UNHCR and the international community to formulate a strategy that would assure their safety and dignity in the country, and promote their self-sufficiency.

(b) Proposed budget for 1996

(i) General Programmes

14. **Care and maintenance**: The Government policy to terminate health subsidies and apply greater restrictions on access to employment means that vulnerable refugees will likely require additional attention. UNHCR is reviewing 1996 budgetary requirements taking into consideration the implementation capacity and possible consequences of the new government policies. UNHCR will continue to provide medical screening and referral as well as legal services for these refugees.

15. **Voluntary repatriation**: The Iraqi Kurd repatriation operation will continue into 1996. It is expected that up to 30,000 Iraqi Kurds and 1,000 Shia Arabs will repatriate voluntarily to their places of origin in Iraq. UNHCR and WFP will provide a repatriation package grant upon their departure and a small budgetary provision has been made.

a. Local settlement

16. **Afghan refugees**: Under the current circumstances in which refugees must either repatriate or be sent to new camps, it is difficult to plan future activities. UNHCR will focus primarily on activities in the sectors of health, education and logistics that will directly benefit or have a positive effect on refugees. When feasible, UNHCR will assist targeted groups. Selective construction and repair of facilities will be undertaken to benefit only those refugees who are

obliged to remain for the foreseeable future. However, it will not assist the Government in funding the construction of new camps when repatriation is still considered to be the option of priority, and such costly structures will therefore soon become obsolete. The budget is established at $ 4,551,500 and will be reviewed during the last quarter of 1995 taking into account the refugee situation and the subsequent revised planning of the 1996 activities.

17. **Iraqi refugees**: Some 120,000 Iraqi Kurd and Arab refugees will be assisted. UNHCR will provide funding, mainly in the sectors of health, sanitation, education and water. After a feasibility study, UNHCR will consider income-generation activities for women. Construction activities will be limited to renovation and maintenance of existing facilities in the camps. The total budget has been established at $ 3,733,000. The Iraqi Kurd repatriation operation will continue into 1996.

18. Sectoral requirements for the assistance to Afghan and Iraqi refugees are summarized below (in dollars):

Afghan and Iraqi local settlement (General Programmes)

	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Proposed 1996
Food	0	69,075	0
Transport	841,000	744,700	530,000
Domestic needs	0	454,000	162,000
Water	832,396	1,116,397	423,000
Sanitation	1,647,000	2,174,000	1,075,420
Health	3,128,713	2,809,586	2,821,336
Shelter	300,000	2,019,540	607,000
Education	408,000	1,239,430	1,049,209
Crop production	0	0	85,000
Forestry	0	0	250,000
Income generation	154,795	479,962	506,838
Legal assistance	194,396	236,326	112,000
Agency operational support	100,000	1,117,584	662,697
Total	7,606,300	12,460,600	8,284,500

(ii) Special Programmes

19. **Afghan repatriation**: Part V/13 refers.

(c) Implementing partners

20. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the main implementing partner of UNHCR. Both at the central and provincial levels, the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) of the Ministry of Interior administers the overall refugee programme. Other Ministries work with UNHCR in the health,

education and water sectors under BAFIA policy guidelines. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR cooperate at the international community level. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works with UNHCR in providing transportation assistance to repatriating Afghans and Iraqis. UNHCR has no non-governmental implementing partners, but the International Consortium for Refugees in Iran (ICRI) provides guidance to non-governmental organizations interested in working with refugees. WFP provides the refugees in the camps with monthly food rations in accordance with UNHCR's Memorandum of Understanding with WFP.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

21. The 1994 expenditure was lower than the revised estimates because several posts previously created under the Afghan Repatriation Programme for staffing the Border Exit Stations (BESs) and In-Country Transit Centres (ICTCs) remained vacant due to the lower than expected repatriation of Afghans through several BESs and ICTCs. This resulted in substantial savings under salaries and common staff costs and correspondingly under all other budget chapters. Expenditure under staff travel and general operating expenses in Mashhad and Zahedan was, however, higher than expected since much of the repatriation took place from these places and because of a need to strengthen security measures.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

22. The revised 1995 requirements are slightly lower than initial estimates. Additional costs under salaries and common staff costs resulting from the creation of new posts were more than offset by the discontinuation of others. In Ahwaz, one local post of Administrative Assistant was created under the Afghan Repatriation programme to provide the capacity required for the day-to-day functioning of this Sub-Office. In Kermanshah, one post of Field Officer outposted to Field Office Orumieh was created to assist local authorities more directly in responding to the needs of Iraqi refugees. In Zahedan, one post of Community Services Assistant was created together with three posts of Repatriation Assistant, while one National Officer post was discontinued as from 31 December 1994. In Mashhad, one post of Senior Administrative Clerk was discontinued together with two posts of Field Clerk. All seven posts previously created for the Mirjaveh Border Exit Station were discontinued at the end of 1994. Corresponding reductions in non-staff costs, travel and general operating expenses were offset by additional needs for the replacement of vehicles and the upgrading of computer equipment.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

23. The 1996 requirements are not significantly different from the revised 1995 requirements since no major changes in staffing are expected at this stage. All previously approved time limited posts have been extended until 31 December 1996. Salaries and common staff costs are lower as a result of the net reduction of posts from previous years. Non-staff costs and general operating expenses remain at 1995 level, while needs for the purchase of new vehicles and equipment are lower.

Changes in requirements will depend upon the operational demands placed on the Office of the Chief of Mission with respect to ongoing programmes of assistance Afghan and Iraqi refugees, including their voluntary repatriation and the implementation capacity of UNHCR's operational partners.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
440.8	614.0	1,437.4	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	483.2
–	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	218.1
7,745.0	7,606.3	12,460.6	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	8,284.5
114.0 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
1,788.3	1,927.6	1,876.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,936.9
10,088.1	**10,147.9**	**15,774.1**	**SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**10,922.7**
419.6	482.2	472.7	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	453.4
10,507.7	**10,630.1**	**16,246.8**	**T O T A L (1)**	**11,376.1**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
3,920.0	10,960.7	13,531.3	AFGHANISTAN REPATRIATION PROGRAMME	13,560.1
1,734.6	2,381.3	2,308.4	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	2,158.3
9.5	44.4	27.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	25.6
–	–	219.7	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
143.0	–	123.2	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
100.2	96.0	72.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	72.0
5,907.3	**13,482.4**	**16,282.0**	**T O T A L (2)**	**15,816.0**
16,415.0	**24,112.5**	**32,528.8**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**27,192.1**